

THE
Hiawah
STORY



HIALEAH PARK

BOX 158, HIALEAH, FLORIDA 33011 / (305) 885-8000 / FAX 887-8006

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It is obvious that the State of Florida is at the crossroads of its past, present and future in the thoroughbred industry.

From the inception of thoroughbred racing in the State of Florida in 1925 to the legalization of pari-mutuel wagering in 1931 and on to 1944, there was basically only one major thoroughbred facility; that facility being Hialeah Park. Through the difficult times during the depression and the earliest days of the 1940's, Hialeah Park, through the foresight, leadership and commitment of its owners managed to establish and maintain a picturesque center for the finest of thoroughbred racing.

After the Second World War, Hialeah Park most certainly became the winter capital of racing in the United States and as many have said the capital of the entire thoroughbred industry. With foresight and commitment to racing, Florida racing flourished. Later, this great era of glory and success became clouded and later endangered by disputes followed by litigation concerning the running of what was considered the "Middle Dates." We shall not take the time to evaluate the interests of the parties involved nor shall we attempt to

adjudicate who was right and who was wrong. The fact is that the cloud hung over the thoroughbred industry in Florida even though it continued to prosper by virtue of the growth of the State of Florida and, more particularly, the southernmost portion of the State.

As stated, without discussing the positions of the parties, Hialeah from the late 1940's until approximately 1970, constantly had its racing dates challenged and there never developed a sense of cooperation by the ownerships of the three racing facilities. This conflict continued more intense when, in 1971, the allocation of the middle racing dates to Hialeah Park was overturned by the Florida Supreme Court and an annual contest for the allocation of these dates began and has continued unceasingly to this date.

Through the early 1970's and until the late 1980's various alliances developed from time to time between two or more of the racing facilities and while there seemed to be a sense of calm, the important business of advancing the fortunes of the entire thoroughbred industry were at many times delayed if not lost. Particular reference is made to the late advent of Sunday racing in the State of Florida; the more than late introduction of permission for minors to attend racing, and still at hand is the uncertain future of Intertrack Wagering and Off Track

Betting which is certainly necessary and vital to the thoroughbred industry as it hopes to progress.

The "Dates Problem" has affected not only the racetracks but the horsemen, owners and breeders alike. An acceptable, equitable assignment of racing dates must be in place so that: (a) New legislation can be implemented to aid the industry; (b) a marketing program developed to attract owners and trainers back to Florida in the winter season; (c) Confidence in the thoroughbred industry must be restored. Gulfstream Park, Calder Race Course and Hialeah Park have most certainly: (a) developed and improved their properties; (b) promoted their racing programs, and (c) aggressively advertised. But, it is Hialeah Park's future that is unclear.

A. Hialeah Park most certainly is the most identifiable racing facility in the international racing community. Many foreign owners and trainers have participated in the Hialeah Story.

B. Hialeah Park, both during its racing season and at the times that racing is not conducted, has for over 50 years been a major tourist attraction for the South Florida area. Hundreds of thousands of people visit Hialeah Park during

the off season and come from all over the United States.

C. Without doubt, Hialeah Park is the most significant business activity conducted in the City of Hialeah; which today totals 175,000 citizens. The community takes pride in knowing that "Hialeah" is recognized world-wide.

D. Much credit should be given to all of the owners and management teams who have charted the course of Hialeah Park in the establishment of its historic significance and other cultural goals.

1. Reference is made to the world-reknown Flamingos residing at Hialeah Park and their world-wide significance.
2. Hialeah is the only thoroughbred track in the State of Florida which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places signifying its historic significance here in the State of Florida.
3. The world famous annual Flamingo Ball for the benefit of the American Cancer Society has raised over \$4,000,000 for this most worthy cause and it is a deep sense of pride that Hialeah Park is committed to this great endeavor. Truly, Hialeah

Park has earned the respect of the communities which surround it.

The Florida Thoroughbred Breeding Industry and the horsemen can be extremely proud of many great thoroughbreds that have been produced in the State of Florida. The road to the great Triple Crown events of the United States found their beginnings in Florida. The glorious racing careers of Citation, Nashua, Needles, Bold Ruler, Tim Tam, Carry Back, Never Bend, Northern Dancer, Buckpasser, Seattle Slew, Alydar, Spectacular Bid, Chief's Crown all flourished at Hialeah Park. More Triple Crown winners and winners of Triple Crown races began their schooling, training and, indeed, used the great races of Hialeah Park as stepping stones to the great championships awarded to these magnificent thoroughbreds.

It is important to note that many trainers associated with these fine horses still look forward to training at Hialeah Park. The most unique training feat in the history of thoroughbred racing; Woodford (Woody) Stephens had five consecutive Belmont winners who were trained at Hialeah Park. The horses who have made history and the distinguished list of patrons, owners, officials and jockeys goes on endlessly and how many times have we heard "Hialeah has the best racing

surface in the country."

Hialeah is irreplaceable because of:

A. The civic, charitable and cultural activities which take place for its citizens from Dade County and indeed throughout the State.

B. The magnificence and beauty of its buildings and its breathtaking lakes and greenery have been photographed, painted and filmed for all to enjoy. Nowhere is there a place with such ambiance, grandeur and breathtaking style as Hialeah Park.

We have tried to outline some of the very important reasons why the future of Hialeah Park is so important to all of us. Nothing is more important, in a world that is forever changing, than trying to maintain history and traditions. What would America be without its Statue of Liberty, its Independence Hall, its Mt. Rushmore, its Golden Gate Bridge or Grand Canyon? Do we not look forward to the Triple Crown of Racing each Spring, the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day, the World Series in the Fall and the Super Bowl each January? Let us not lose one of those magnificent traditions. Let us not lose Hialeah Park.